AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-42   :   (Canceled)

Claim 43   :   (New) A method of acquiring data for delivery to a host computer, comprising the steps of:

a)   supporting a first, portable, electro-optical reader by a user for movement at variable distances relative to the host computer;

b)   operating the first portable reader by the user to electro-optically read a first coded symbol to produce first symbol data;

c)   connecting a second, fixed, electro-optical reader to the host computer over a hard-wired connection;

d)   operating the second reader to electro-optically read a second coded symbol different from the first symbol to produce second symbol data for transmission over the hard-wired connection to the host computer;

e)   establishing a wireless connection between the readers by mounting wireless transceivers in the readers; and

f)   transmitting the first symbol data to the host computer over both the wireless connection and the hard-wired connection, by initially transmitting the first symbol data over the wireless connection from the transceiver in the first reader to the transceiver in the second

reader, and by thereupon transmitting the first symbol data received by the transceiver in the second reader over the hard-wired connection to the host computer.

Claim 44 : (New) The method of claim 43, and the step of configuring the wireless connection as one of a radio frequency protocol, a Bluetooth protocol, an infrared protocol and an IEEE 802.11 protocol.

Claim 45 : (New) The method of claim 43, and the step of decoding the first and second symbol data prior to transmission to the host computer.

Claim 46 : (New) The method of claim 43, and the step of decoding the first and second symbol data in the host computer.

Claim 47 : (New) A system for acquiring data for delivery to a host computer, comprising:

a) a first, portable, electro-optical reader supported by a user for movement at variable distances relative to the host computer, the first portable reader being operated by the user to electro-optically read a first coded symbol to produce first symbol data;

b) a second, fixed, electro-optical reader connected to the host computer over a hard-wired connection, the second reader being operative to electro-optically read a second coded symbol different from the first symbol to produce second symbol data for transmission over the hard-wired connection to the host computer;

c) a pair of wireless transceivers in the readers for establishing a wireless connection between the readers; and

d)   means for transmitting the first symbol data to the host computer over both the wireless connection and the hard-wired connection, by initially transmitting the first symbol data over the wireless connection from the transceiver in the first reader to the transceiver in the second reader, and by thereupon transmitting the first symbol data received by the transceiver in the second reader over the hard-wired connection to the host computer.

Claim 48   :   (New)   The system of claim 47, wherein the wireless connection is one of a radio frequency protocol, a Bluetooth protocol, an infrared protocol and an IEEE 802.11 protocol.

Claim 49   :   (New)   The system of claim 47, and a decoder in one of the readers and the host computer for decoding the first and second symbol data.